

The Pipeline

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We're All Dragon Slayers!

August 5 and 6 meetings explain how

by Cary Willis

Cabinet for Families and Children, Communications

We're all dragon slayers, according to *HeroZ*, a book that uses a fable to promote empowerment in the workplace.

In *HeroZ*, workers in the fictitious kingdom called Lamron go to work every day, just like you and I do, cranking out their product. Their product happens to be magic arrows for the knights to use in fighting dragons. Some of the workers turn out wooden shafts. Others shape metal tips. Still others tie the tips to the shafts, or glue feathers to them, or impart magic on them.



But at first the Lamronians have a hard time seeing how

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PIPELINE, a weekly newsletter for staff of the Cabinets for Families and Children and Health Services, welcomes reader comments and contributions. Items for publication are due by 4:30p.m. Tuesdays; items for announcements are due by 4 p.m. Mondays. Editor/Designer: Margaret Davis Harney.

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Suggestions Anonymous suggestions may be sent to Communications. They will be forwarded to the appropriate manager for a response.

Web Site <http://cfc-chs.chrstate.ky.us/>

Cabinet for Health Services to Participate in State Fair

Volunteers needed to work booth

by Kim Saylor Brannock

Cabinet for Health Services, Communications

The Cabinet for Health Services is sponsoring a booth at the Kentucky State Fair, August 20-30, and needs volunteers from throughout CHS to staff it.

This is an exciting opportunity for staff to work together and meet face-to-face with the citizens we serve.

Planning has been underway for several months, and approximately half of the 75 people needed to staff the booth have been recruited. There are three shifts to fill: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., and 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

In the past, the booth has been located in the government section, but this year it will be located in the "Health Fair" area of the South Wing of the Exposition Center.

The overall theme for the booth adopts the cabinet's new slogan "Better Health for the Commonwealth." Its goals are to provide information to citizens about physical and mental health, establish a cabinet identity in the wake of the split of the Cabinet for Human Resources, and help people understand what the Cabinet for Health Services does. The information to be shared focuses on prevention and wellness.

If you are interested in working at the booth, please obtain a volunteer form from the coordinator listed for your department or office as soon as possible, so you can be added to the schedule.

Coordinators are: Public Health, Carol Forbes or Janet Luttrell at 7996; Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services, Rich Crossett at 7610; Medicaid Services, Peggy Puckett at 5472; and the Secretary's Office, Office of Inspector General, Legal Counsel and Program Support, Kim Saylor Brannock at 6786. ❖



Notes and Activities

☒ Health Services will provide **breakfast** for the entire CHR-CHS Building complex August 5 in the cafeteria, beginning at 9 a.m. Monetary donations will be

requested, and all funds raised will go to **KECC**.

☒ Representatives of **Kentucky State University** will be in the CHR lobby August 12, 11:30 a.m. – 1 P.m., to sign up employees for fall classes. Participants in the **tuition assistance program** should have forms approved before August 7.

☒ State Police Trooper Alex Payne will conduct a seminar on “Violence in the Workplace” at the next Health Services’ **Wakeup Wednesday** program August 19 at 8:30 a.m. in the Health Services auditorium.

☒ Everyone who has a CFC logo T-shirt is asked to wear it Sept. 11 for a **group photo** that will go on the Internet home page. To order a shirt, contact Debbie Armstrong, 564-7770. The cost is \$10, (\$11 for extra large sizes) and all proceeds will go to CFC-sponsored charities.

☒ Training for current, new, and potential **volunteer mentors** in the Special Friends program will be held Aug. 17 at 2:30 p.m. in the Health Services auditorium. Many volunteers are still needed to help Frankfort area schoolchildren reach their full potential. There were 100 children on the waiting list at the end of the last school year. For information or to volunteer, contact Ronnie Dunn at 564-7770.

☒ If you need a new July 1998 **Frankfort phone book**, they are still available in the Building Superintendents’ Office on the first floor behind the ATM machines. While you’re there, say “hello and welcome” to our new Building Superintendent, John Mynhier.

☒ There have been numerous errors in **time coding** by CFC staff, as a result of changes in organization numbers and program codes in CFC’s restructuring. It is very important all codes be correct. Check with your timekeeper if you are unsure.

☒ **Congratulations to Lora Hood**, daughter of CFC’s Larry Hood, who has received the Teen Volunteer Award at the Thomson-Hood Veterans Center in Wilmore. She will be presented a certificate of appreciation by Gov. and Mrs. Paul Patton during a program at the Mansion August 6. ❖

Sandi Stephens: CFC’s July Employee of the Month

Sandi Stephens has been selected as the Cabinet for Families and Children’s Employee of the Month for July, Secretary Viola Miller announced in a July 27 ceremony outside her office.



Stephens (l.) and Secretary Miller

Now an essential member of the Employee Services Branch – CFC employees depend on her work to receive a paycheck – Stephens came to state government in 1967 when she joined the agency then known as the Department of Finance.

Stephens was nominated for the honor by her co-workers Fay Klessig and Melony Collins, who are currently learning about time and attendance records and how they pertain to payroll. Both praised Stephens for not only being very knowledgeable about her job, but for also being very gracious and patient in sharing that knowledge.

“Sandi will take extra time out of her schedule to explain in detail things I can’t understand from anyone else,” Collins said.

She never has an unkind word for anyone, Klessig added, and is one of the office’s “greatest assets.” On the rare occasion when Stephens’s storehouse of knowledge isn’t adequate to answer a co-worker’s question, she is more than willing to help find the information, Klessig said.

Collins described Stephens as a self-motivated employee. “She definitely sets the pace for the rest of us to follow,” she said.

A resident of Frankfort, Stephens has six children, including five stepchildren. ❖

Candidates for Employee of the Month are nominated by their peers. If you have a co-worker who is especially knowledgeable and helpful, or a CFC employee outside your office or branch has gone beyond the call of duty to help make your job easier, nominate that person to be Employee of the Month.

Send nominations to Charlene Nation, Employee Services, (564-7770) by the 15th of each month. ❖

Slaying Dragons

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what they do is particularly relevant to what anyone else in the kingdom does. They only know their specific job. I don't want to ruin the suspense for you, but let's just say they eventually come around. It takes a lot of effort, trial and error, and teamwork, but eventually they figure out how their individual jobs are part of a larger, nobler cause.

They are all dragon slayers.

The same goes for us. If you work in Central Office for the Cabinet for Families and Children, you have a specific job. You may be an accountant, or a branch manager, or an administrative specialist, or a clerk. What you do, day in and day out, may seem far removed from the work the public knows us for – protecting children and vulnerable adults or building self-sustaining families.

With all the changes going on during restructuring and welfare reform, maybe you need a chance to step back and look at “The Big Picture.” See where you fit in. See how your job protects children and vulnerable adults or builds self-sustaining families.

See how you're a dragon slayer.

Get the scoop by attending one of three scheduled briefings Wednesday and Thursday August 5 and 6 for Central Office personnel: 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m.-noon Thursday, and 1-3 p.m. Thursday – all in the Kentucky State University Ballroom.

You'll hear from Secretary Miller, representatives of “Vision 2000” communities, front-line field workers, and some clients who are affected by our work. We're also planning some entertainment. Imagine: a fun meeting.

If you need a clear example of the meeting's theme, read the story Susan Fernandez wrote for the July 27 Herald-Leader about the “virtual office” project in Magoffin County. The story explains how equipping some of our child protection workers with laptop computers there has helped our workers get more done. The added mobility that comes with portable technology has also dramatically increased the number of face-to-face visits our workers have with their clients. We can assume these extra visits have helped families cope with life a little better, maybe even averted a crisis.

For any employees of the Office of Technology Services who until now have wondered how their work protected children, there it was in black and white.

National Scholarship Fund Established for Dr. Maxson

The Association of Public Health Laboratories has established a scholarship fund in memory of Dr. Thomas E. Maxson, division director of Laboratory Services for the Department for Public Health from 1987 until his death in July. The scholarship will provide support for the training and continuing education of public health laboratory professionals.



Dr. Maxson was very active in APHL, serving on its training and education committee since 1993, and had recently been elected to the association's board of directors. As a member of the training committee, he worked tirelessly to assure affordable, quality training was available to the public health laboratory community. He also advised the staff of the National Laboratory Training Network, and actively participated in their efforts to identify and respond quickly and appropriately to critical laboratory training needs.

Dr. Maxson also represented APHL as a liaison to the Emerging Infectious Disease Fellowship Program, which he helped foster. The program has placed 68 masters and doctoral level individuals in fellowship positions at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) laboratories and public health laboratories throughout the country in the past three years. Each fellowship is for a term of one to two years.

A lifelong learner himself, Dr. Maxson participated in numerous continuing education activities and professional organizations, and maintained certification as a Clinical Laboratory Director with the American Board of Bioanalysis. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in biology from Bucknell University in Pennsylvania, and earned both a masters and doctorate in Public Health from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health.

Contributions to the Dr. Thomas Maxson Scholarship Fund may be made to APHL, 1211 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Suite 608, Washington, D. C. 20036. ❖